IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a source node;

one or more destination nodes, each of which includes a receiving buffer; and

a controller adapted to set a logical connection between the source node and the one or more destination nodes, wherein

the source node is adapted to divide data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data, and transfer each segment data with information for identifying the logical connection ~~address information relating to a portion of the receiving buffer~~ to each of the one or more destination nodes ~~via the logical connection~~, and

each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to store the segment data in the receiving buffer~~, and~~

~~each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to notify information about a size of the receiving buffer to the source node via the logical connection after a~~

~~preparation for receiving the segment data is completed.~~

21.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising steps of:

setting a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes, wherein each of the one or more destination nodes includes a receiving buffer;

dividing data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data;

transferring segment data with information for identifying the logical connection ~~address information relating to a portion of the receiving buffer~~ from the source node to each of the one or more destination nodes ~~via the logical connection;~~

storing the segment data in the receiving buffer of each of the one or more destination nodes~~; and~~

~~notifying information about a size of the receiving buffer from each of the one or more destination nodes to the source node via the logical connection after a preparation for receiving the segment data is completed.~~

27.-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The communication system according to claim

20, wherein each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to notify information about a size of the receiving buffer to the source node after preparation for receiving the segment data is completed ~~the source node transfers information indicating the logical connection with the segment data.~~

37. and 38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The communication system according to claim 20, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE1394-1995 standard.

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40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The communication method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of notifying information about a size of the receiving buffer from each of the one or more destination nodes to the source node after preparation for receiving the segment data is completed ~~wherein the transferring step transfers the information indicating the logical connection with the segment data.~~

42. and 43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The communication method according to claim 26, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

45. (Canceled)

46. (New) A communication apparatus comprising:

a dividing unit adapted to divide data to be transmitted to one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data; and

a data communication unit adapted to transfer each segment data with information for identifying the logical connection to each of the one or more destination nodes,

wherein the logical connection is set between the communication apparatus and the one or more destination nodes.

47. (New) The communication apparatus according to claim 46, wherein each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to notify information about a size of receiving buffer to the communication apparatus after preparation for receiving the segment data is completed.

48. (New) The communication apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the data communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.